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NEWSLETTER Thursday 12th December 2024

NATIVITY WEEK – REFLECTIONS

Dear Parents,

I hope you have enjoyed all the pre-Christmas events!

What a week we had! I have been through quite a few nativity seasons during my career and I never tire of our trips to Bethlehem! All three performances were brilliant, and the confidence and self-assuredness displayed by the children was remarkable. The KS1 event was simply delightful with a real sense of joy and innocence that made it memorable for all. What I call "Ahhhh... factor 10".



And the KS2 shows? Well, I thought that every single child contributed to two very entertaining evenings. The atmosphere in St Matthew's was perfect and encouraged all the children to do their best. I would particularly like to give a special mention to those children who at the very last minute stepped in and took the parts of children who didn't make the second night – whilst under a bit of pressure they pulled out the stops and kept the show on the road- well done!

Of course, whilst the children are the most important part of these seasonal events, we mustn't forget that without a whole team effort these results would never be possible. And so, I want to thank the staff and you, the parent body, for putting in the effort and time to provide such fantastic costumes that helped to give the children the confidence to get into character and do their best.



THE LINK ACADEMY FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS

What a fabulous choir event last week at the civic hall in Totnes! We were so proud of the children in Song Machine when they performed to at least 250 adults and a further 100 children. Miss Capaldi and Mrs. Grant deserve huge thanks for working alongside the children to get them ready for their performance. Great job everyone!



ETHOS, VISION & VALUES

We have spent the last two weeks exploring Advent and the children have been enjoying stories about the origins and meaning of advent as well as finding out about how advent is celebrated around the world.

FOLS – a message from Michelle

A big, BIG thank you to everyone for all your support with the Christmas Fair! These events just wouldn't happen without a great team effort, from people donating bottles, cakes and prizes to buying raffle tickets and running stalls for the Fair, you've all contributed in some way, and I am very grateful. I am pleased to announce that we raised a whopping £2200! This is such an amazing achievement, especially in the current climate. These funds will help each of our children and the school enormously.

16th December – Our last event of the term, a Sponsored 'Santa Run' during the school day, with Mr Tanner at the helm. We will be collecting sponsorship via our JustGiving page (details to follow shortly). Please put this fun event in your diary, it was a fantastic atmosphere last year. **Marshalls needed on the route or to simply cheer the children on at the finish line – let us know if you can help!**

Many thanks,
Michelle

SAFEGUARDING & ATTENDANCE

Attendance: (Our school target is 96.8%)	
Whole school	94.6%
Class 1	97.6%
Class 2	97.2%
Class 3	93.7%
Class 4	92.1%
Well done to class 1!	

The Family Digital Toolkit is where parents can get personalised online safety advice based on a number of factors such as age, popular apps and platforms their children use, tackling online issues and more. As a bonus parents can also be entered into a draw to win a prize bundle (including an iPhone 15)! The toolkit can be found here:



[My Family's Digital Toolkit - tailored online safety advice | Internet Matters](#)

A reminder about photos taken during the nativity season: please do not put these on social media as you do not have permission from other parents. Thank you.

If you are concerned about a child's wellbeing, please contact the school or in non-school hours contact MASH on 0345 155 1071. Our designated safeguarding officer is Mrs. Ryder, and the deputy safeguarding officer is Mr. Ansermoz.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES: DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FRI 13TH DEC CHRISTINGLE SERVICE for children with Rev. Gina

MON 16TH DEC Sponsored Santa Run with Mr Tanner

WED 18TH DEC CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY followed by children's entertainer
(Also **Christmas Jumper Day**)

THURS 19TH DEC Class 4 Forest School Day.

FRI 20TH DEC 2:45pm carol service in church – parents invited, bring your singing voices with you!

FRI 20TH DEC 3.30 BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS

Well, this half term has certainly flown by; with only a week to go, it really is beginning to look alot like Christmas! Have a great weekend everyone.



Jill Ryder.